

VIII.—EXTENSION OF HABITAT OF HUME'S SCIMITAR BABBLER  
(*POMATORHINUS HORSFIELDI OBSCURUS*) TO ORISSA

While going through the Society's Bird Collection recently I came upon a specimen, obviously of this race, obtained by Major H. J. Walton, I.M.S., at Rosul Hindol, Orissa, on February 18, 1902. On page 211 of vol. i, *F.B.I.* Birds (second edition) it is stated, 'So far only recorded from Mt. Aboo and Seoni.' As Orissa is considerably farther east of the localities mentioned, I think this record is very interesting. Major Walton gives the following data regarding the specimen on his label: 'No. 1418♂ Long tot.=9.5", al.=3.8", caud.=4.1", culm.=1.25", tars.=1.3". Iris deep red. Bill yellow: base of culmen blackish. Legs and feet olive-green. Testes moderate.'

The specimen, which is numbered 850 in the present catalogue, is much paler than true *horsfieldi horsfieldi*.

It would be of great value if members sent us skins of this race obtained outside its known range.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,  
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IX.—INDIAN CUCKOO NOTES—KOEL (*EUDYNAMIS S. SCOLOPACEUS*)  
PARASITISING NEST OF INDIAN ORIOLE (*ORIOULUS O. KUNDOO*)

It is well known that the Indian Koel lays its eggs in the nests of the House Crow and rarely in that of the Jungle Crow. I was not a little surprised when on May 25 I found a koel's egg deposited in the nest of an Indian Oriole (*Oriolus o. kundoo*, Sykes). There were three oriole's eggs and one koel's egg. I do not think this has been recorded previously, and I think it is due to untoward circumstances—to the fact that the Koel at the time she deposited her egg was unable to find a suitable nest and so dropped the egg into the nearest likely nest available to take its chance. This is to some extent borne out by circumstances for koels are very plentiful in the vicinity of this oriole's nest while the nearest crow's nest was about two or more miles away.

I have also been sent an egg from Secunderabad which was found in the nest of an Ashy Wren-Warbler (*Prinia socialis socialis*) on September 21, which is quite unlike all described eggs of *Cacomantis passerinus* and those figured by E.C. Stuart Baker in his article<sup>1</sup> on the Oology of the Indian Parasitic Cuckoos. This egg is almost identical in colouration and size to an egg of the Jungle Wren-Warbler; it measures 18.3×13.2 mm. This is the second time my correspondent has found this egg in the nest of an Ashy Wren-Warbler and the latter seems to eject the cuckoo's egg from its nest. He notes as follows:—

## 'FIRST NEST OF ASHY WREN-WARBLER

- 16—8—1926. Nest completed and first mahogany red egg deposited.
- 17—8—1926. Nest completed and second mahogany red egg deposited.
- 18—8—1926. Cuckoo's egg deposited.
- 19—8—1926. Cuckoo's egg disappeared, two red eggs only in nest.
- 30—8—1926. One red egg hatched.
- 31—8—1926. Second red egg not in nest.
- 10—9—1926. Young bird quitted nest.

## SECOND NEST OF ASHY WREN-WARBLER (perhaps the same pair).

- 17—9—1926. Nest completed.
- 20—9—1926. First red egg deposited.
- 21—9—1926. First red egg and one cuckoo's egg, latter removed and sent to Mr. D'Abreu. This egg similar to the one that disappeared from the first nest.

<sup>1</sup> *Journal B.N.H.S.*, vols. xvii and xviii.